(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is the nodal Ministry for granting approval to proposals to shoot films in India, wholly or partly, by foreigners according to procedure prescribed in the Visa Manual brought out by the Ministry of External Affairs, Approval is given after due consultation with Ministry of Home Affairs in order to ensure acceptability of the proposal from the point of view of security.

While considering proposal, this Ministry keeps in view the concerns of integrity of the nation, friendly relations with other countries and communal harmony while adhering to the policy of creative freedom and the freedom of expression.

The proposal from M/s. Flagship International, Canada was also processed in accordance with the prescribed procedure and permission to shoot the films Water in India was given subject to certain laid down conditions. Subsequent to the completion of the film, it is required to be shown to a representative of the Government of India in India or abroad to ensure that it is not objectionable to the image of India, before it is exhibited anywhere in the world. For release of the film in India, it has to be certified for exhibition by the Central Board of Film Certification.

Shooting of the film Water in Varanasi was stopped for 15 days under Section 144 Cr. P.C. by the District Administration vide their order dated 7th February 2000 due to a law and order problem created by continued protests and demonstrations in the city.

The permission granted by this Ministry is also subject to the condition that shooting on locations is subject to permission being granted by the respective local authorities. As such the permission to shoot the film in Varanasi is subject to the District Administration's permission to do so.

Hiring the services of outside anchors

1135. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan is hiring the services of outside anchors to host the panel discussions after the news bulletins;

(b) if so, who are those outside anchors;

(c) what is the remuneration paid to them; and

(d) what are the compelling reasons for hiring their services when there are staffers to host such panel discussions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) The names of outside anchors engaged and the monthly remuneration paid by Doordarshan are as follows:—

(i) Smt. Mrinal Pandey — Rs. 1.5 Lakh

(ii) Shri Rahul Dev — Rs. 1.5 Lakh

(iii) Shri Sunit Tandon — Rs. 75,000/-

(iv) Shri Nalin S. Kohli — Rs. 60,000/-

(d) There are no specialized staff recruited for this kind of professional and special services Doordarshan and, therefore, persons with presentation talent are being hired from outside.

Violence in the films and television

1136. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the violence in the films and television is having a very detrimental effect on the consciousness of children;

(b) whether government are also aware of a recent publication by UNESCO in which this has been documented at length; and

(c) if so, the steps Government intend to take to discourage violence in films and television?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) All Films, including advertisement films, intended for public exhibition in India are required to be certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) in accordance with the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the guidelines issued thereunder. According to these guidelines, the CBFC, while examining films for certification ensures, *inter-alia*, that human sensibilities are not offended by vulgarity, obscenity, depravity, sex and violence.